

Message Text

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SUBJ: AMB. YOUNG'S CARIBBEAN VISIT

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE ENTITLED "STILL FLYING PAST" APPEARED IN SATURDAY'S NASSAU GUARDIAN. ITS AUTHOR, PETER MAYNARD, WHO RECENTLY RECEIVED HIS PHD IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AT JOHNS HOPKINS IS THE SON OF MINISTER OF TOURISM CLEMENT MAYNARD. YOUNG MAYNARD'S VIEWS NEVERTHELESS APPEAR TO BE TOTALLY HIS OWN AS NEITHER AMB. JOHNSON OR ANYONE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HAVE EXPRESSED ANY DISPLEASURE ON THE OMISSION OF NASSAU FROM THE ITINERARY.

2. QTE: IN THE LAST COLUMN, I COMMENTED ON THE FACT THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS ALREADY SETTING PATTERN OF FLYING ITS TOP REPRESENTATIVES PAST THE BAHAMAS. THIS COUNTRY HAS NOT BEEN VISITED OFFICIALLY BY A U.S. PRESIDENT OR OTHER TOP U.S. OFFICIAL FOR A LONG TIME. OVER THE PAST MONTHS, THE REGION, INCLUDING COUNTRIES VARYING FROM GRENADA TO JAMAICA, HAS BEEN VISITED BY U.S. FIRST LADY ROSALYN CARTER AND U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE.

NOW, THEY HAVE DONE IT AGAIN* U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ANDREW YOUNG, YESTERDAY BEGAN AN OFFICIAL TOUR THROUGH THE REGION, WHICH WILL LAST UNTIL AUGUST 17, TAKING HIM TO JAMAICA, MEXICO, COSTA RICA, GUYANA, SURINAM, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, VENEZUELA, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HAITI AND BARBADOS.

CARTER HIMSELF CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO VISIT, OR SEND HIS TOP PEOPLE TO VISIT EVERY COUNTRY IN THE REGION. BUT, WHEN A DIPLOMAT'S ITINERARY IS PLANNED, THE COUNTRIES INCLUDED ARE USUALLY SCRUTINIZED JUST AS CLOSELY AS THOSE NOT INCLUDED. IF ONE TAKES THE VISITS OF YOUNG, VANCE AND

MRS. CARTER TOGETHER, IT APPEARS THAT THE BAHAMAS IS THE ONLY MAJOR COUNTRY IN THE REGION WHICH HAS BEEN OMITTED. CUBA HAS CERTAINLY RECEIVED A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION FROM THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, FOR SPECIAL REASONS, INCLUDING THE RE-OPENING OF TRADE AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. ALSO, JAMAICA HAS CERTAINLY BEEN A COUNTRY IN THE REGION OF MAJOR INTEREST.

WHY WOULD CARTER VISIT THE BAHAMAS? CERTAINLY THEY SEEM TO HAVE JUST CREATED A REASON - THE VERY FACT OF HAVING LEFT THE BAHAMAS OUT OF A GROUP IN THE REGION AMONG WHICH THE BAHAMAS CONSIDERS ITSELF EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT.

A UPI PRESS RELEASE ON YOUNG'S TRIP REFERS TO THREE POINTS: THAT YOUNG IS EXPECTED TO CONCENTRATE ON BILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES, THAT THESE WILL INCLUDE PLEDGES OF INCREASED U.S. AID TO THE TROUBLED ECONOMIES OF THE COUNTRIES ON HIS ITINERARY, AND THAT THE TRIP, REINFORCING THOSE OF MR. CARTER AND MR. VANCE, IS VIEWED AS A WAY "TO COME UP WITH SOME KIND OF A COHERENT POLICY FOR THE AREA AS A WHOLE."

THEY HAVE INCLUDED BARBADOS, GUYANA, JAMAICA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. EVEN FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE U.S., HOW CAN A "COHERENT POLICY FOR AREA AS A WHOLE" BE DEVELOPED IN THE ABSENCE OF DIRECT CONTACT WITH BAHAMIAN LEADERS? WHILE THE BAHAMAS HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, THE INTERESTS OF THE BAHAMAS ARE QUITE DISTINCT.

JAMAICA MAY SERVE AS AN INTERESTING FROME OF REFERENCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN THE PROCESS OF ELABORATING A NEW REGIONAL POLICY. JAMAICA HAS BEEN QUITE VOCAL ON THIRD WORLD ISSUES, VARYING FROM TRADE PREFERENCES TO INDEXATION OF COMMODITY PRICES, FROM DEBT MORATORIA TO THE INFLUENCE OF FOREIGN COVERT OPERATIONS ON DOMESTIC POLICIES. ALSO, JAMAICA WAS AMONG THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN BREAKING THE ICE WITH CUBA, AND HAS ESTABLISHED SEPARATE SOCIALIST POLICIES OF ITS OWN. IT IS IN CARTER'S INTEREST NOT TO FOLLOW A MONOLITHIC POLICY, BUT TO ESTAVLISH A MODUS VIVENDI WITH AN IDEAOLOGICALLY DIVERSE CARIBBEAN.

WOULD U.S. AND BAHAMIAN LEADERS HAVE ANYTHING TO TALK ABOUT? THEY CERTAINLY WOULD. THEY COULD START WITH THE RESOLUTION OF THE AUTEK BASE QUESTION AND THEIR MUTUAL 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONES. THERE ARE MANY OTHER ISSUES OF ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE AND OF BROADER REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INTEREST.

THE BAHAMAS HAS PAID A GREAT DEAL OF LIP SERVICE TO ITS CLOSE TIES WITH THE U.S. - LOCAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVES HAVE RECIPROCATED IN EQUAL PROPORTION. THE BAHAMAS HAS PLAYED UP ITS CLOSE TIES THROUGH MANY EVENTS, NOTABLY THOSE IN CELEBRATION OF AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL. YET THE BAHAMAS APPEARS ONCE MORE TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN FOR GRANTED.

ONE MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO SEE IN THIS SOME SORT OF
SNUB AGAINST THE BAHAMAS. PERHAPS IT IS, PERHAPS IT IS
NOT. LET'S SEE HOW LONG THEY CONTINUE TO FLY PAST.
TAYLOR

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